



Is the Resurrection Historical?

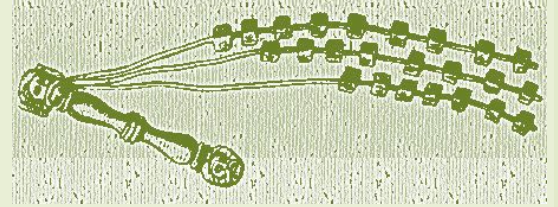


Resurrection is Everything

- **1 Corinthians 15: 12-19**
- **Christianity is different than other religions**
 - **Other religions are based on philosophical propositions**
 - **Christianity is based on an empty tomb**
- **The resurrection proved that Jesus was and is God**
- **Demonstrated that we will have a life after this one**
- **Jesus is the one man who died and then came back to life to tell us about the other side**

Resurrection Facts

- **Jesus was Dead**
 - **Scourging prior to crucifixion**
 - flagrum – “It can readily be seen that the long, lashing pieces of bone and metal would greatly lacerate human flesh”¹
 - “veins were laid bare, and ... the very muscles, sinews, and bowels of the victim were open to exposure.”²
 - **Blood and water flowed from Jesus’ side**
 - Caused by pericarditis and rupture of the heart





Resurrection Facts

- **Jesus was Dead**
 - Pilot asked for verification of Jesus' death (4 specialists)
 - Jesus' entire body was wrapped according the Jewish customs
 - 100 lbs. of myrrh & aloes used with the linen (John 19:38-40)
- **The Tomb**
 - A great stone covered the entrance
 - Seal done in the presence of the guards; this carried full Roman authority and power.
 - Roman guard (10-30 lead by centurion)



Resurrection Facts

The Tomb wasn't exactly empty

- **Grave clothes (John 20:3-8)**
 - The linens were positioned where the body was
 - Face cloth (napkin); “not lying with the linen cloths”
 - Key word “folded” (entulisso – gk); twist or to entwine
 - “the napkin, which had been twisted round the top of the head would remain on ... [the] elevated slab; there it would be found ‘rolled up in a place by itself’”*
 - They saw the empty tomb and the grave cloths and believed
 - It was the condition of the grave cloths that cemented their belief

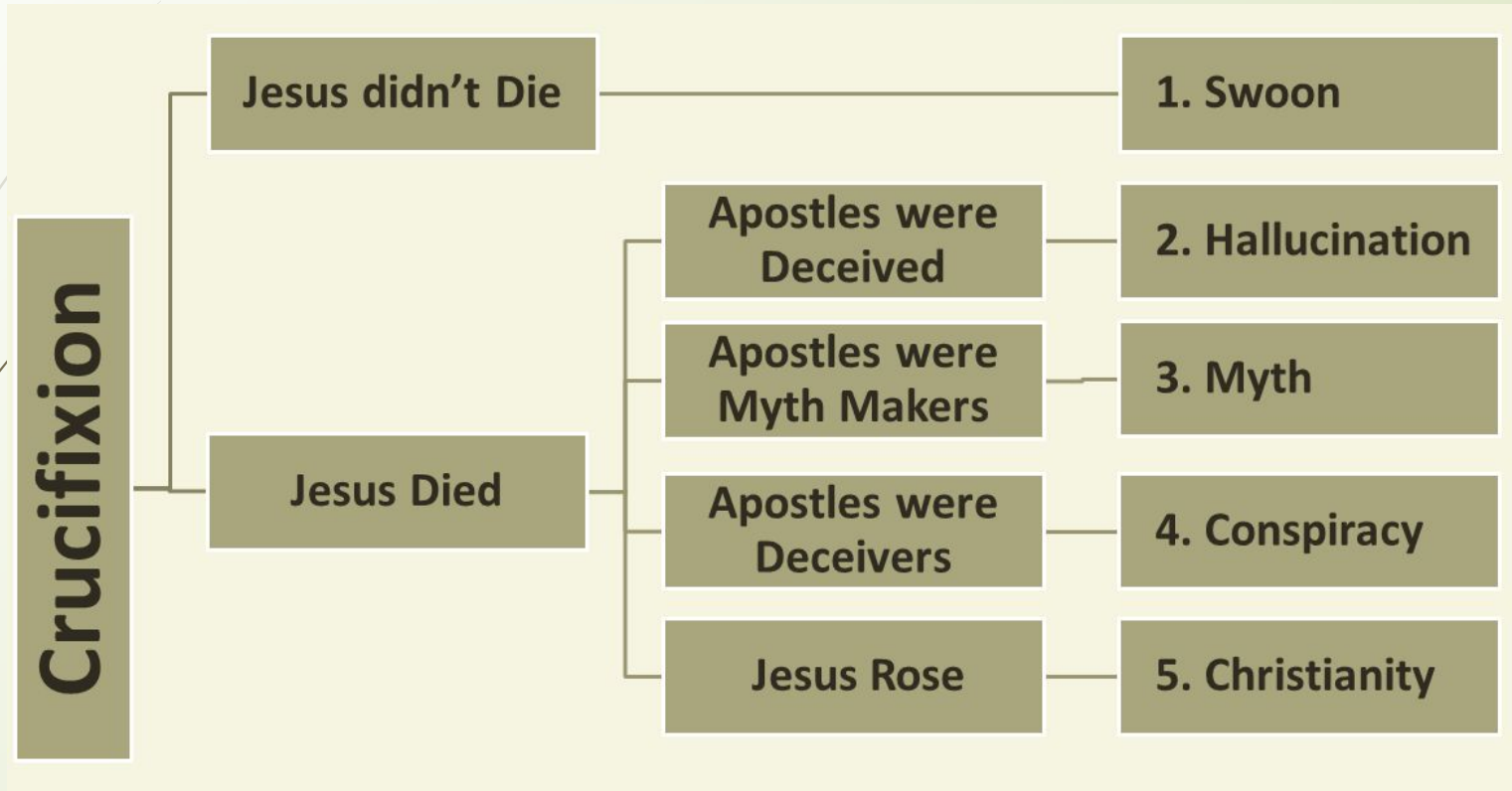


Resurrection Facts

The Tomb wasn't exactly empty

- **Grave clothes (John 20:3-8)**
 - Is it reasonable to believe that the disciples, before taking Jesus' body, took the time to unwrap the body (linen with 100 lbs. of spices)?
 - The preparation; gum like spices were applied between the folds of linen to form a hard shell

What Doubters say about the Resurrection?



Argument 1: Swoon Theory

Jesus was only injured and only appeared to die

- Romans Soldiers would not have allowed it
 - Soldiers were brutal and meticulous executing their orders
 - Failure would have resulted in the same punishment for the soldier
- Soldiers didn't break Jesus' legs
 - John 19:31-35
 - Speeded up death by breaking the victims legs, expedites suffocation; Jesus already dead
- Water came from Jesus' side
 - Collapsed lungs and death by asphyxiation



Argument 1: Swoon Theory (cont.)

- If He lived, where are the historical records to verify His life after?
- Eyewitnesses to verify the death
 - Mark 15: 42-46 (Centurion verified death, Joseph saw crucifixion and death)
 - Why would Joseph wrap a live body with 100 lbs. of spices and linen for burial?
- Doubting Thomas was convinced that He was not a half dead man

Argument 1: Swoon Theory (cont.)

- Who moved the stone?
 - Neither the soldiers or Jewish leaders would move it
 - If soldiers were sleeping (penalty of death), disciples tried to move it, soldiers would be alerted
 - The stone is positioned at the bottom of an inclined ramp, trench
 - Size; Mark “exceeding great”, Matthew “a great stone”, Peter “a great stone”, Jewish leaders would have ensured that the stone was large to keep the tomb secure
- How were the Roman Soldiers overpowered by Jesus or unarmed disciples?
 - If the disciples got Jesus, then they were part of a conspiracy & died for a lie
 - We will look at the conspiracy theory later
- Remember, even the Jewish leaders admitted that the tomb was empty.

Argument 2: Hallucination Theory

Hallucination theory; saw resurrection due to grief & despair

- There are no group hallucinations
 - Appeared to over 500 witnesses (different locations)
 - Over 40 days; hallucinations last for seconds/minutes not days
 - Occurred once but multiple times
- Disciples is not expect it & didn't believe it at first
 - Thomas & James did not believe initially until after the resurrection – no initial hope
- Hallucinations do not eat, can be touched, have prolonged conversations
- Qualified witnesses; first hand knowledge of the facts

Argument 2: Hallucination Theory (cont.)

- What about the empty tomb?
 - If hallucination then the body could be produced by soldiers or Jewish leaders
 - Witnesses could be checked to verify
 - Hallucination may attempt to argue appearances but not explain an empty tomb
- The claim they took to their death
 - John 21: 24-25, 2 Peter 1:16
 - Even to the point of death, they believed it

Argument 3: Myth Theory

Story twisted over a long period of time by non-witnesses

- Not enough time
 - Myth requires several generations to development
 - First Christian documents appear within the first generation of the eyewitnesses
 - Eyewitnesses able to review the stories and testify to their validity
- Non-biblical records date back within lives of eyewitnesses
 - Thallus (52AD), Mara Bar-Serapion (70AD), Josephus (93AD)
 - Pliny the Younger (112AD), Cornelius Tacitus (116AD), Phlegon (140AD)
- First Witnesses were women (Matt 28: 8-10)
 - Women of the day had a very low social status
 - To establish credibility, you would not create a story with women as witnesses

Argument 4: Conspiracy Theory

Disciples conspired to fool the world

- A good conspiracy needs the following
 - Few participants (less opportunity for someone to slip up)
 - Relatives are best
 - Short time span (longer time; greater chance someone will slip up and confess)
 - Close proximity for communication (participants keep stories straight)
 - Participants are not under stress (interrogation or torture will bring confession)
 - Good motive (power, financial reward)

Argument 4: Conspiracy Theory (cont.)

Conspiracy Elements not Satisfied

- Few participants
 - Over 500 witnesses and their were not related (except James)
 - James was not a believer before the resurrection (not a good participant) Relatives are best
- Short time span
 - Disciples held to their testimony for the remainder of their lives even under torture
 - No witness recanted their story about the resurrection
- Close proximity for communication
 - Witnesses were in different countries and their was no fast communication
- Participants are not under stress
 - Witnesses jailed, stoned, beaten, whipped, and killed to recant story
- Motive
 - No financial rewards, No power (Culture & Religion against you)

Argument 4: Conspiracy Theory (cont.)

- Is it reasonable that simple fisherman could develop this elaborate hoax?
- What caused the disciples to become lions from lambs?
- Is it reasonable to believe; a lie could transform the hard nosed Roman world?
- They body would still be in the tomb (Matt 27: 62-66)
 - Tomb sealed (Roman seal) - protected by the full authority of Rome
 - Roman attachment guarded tomb to prevent theft (Guards would die if they failed)
 - Disciples would not be able to steal the body
 - Jewish leaders could produce the body to stop the deception
- They preached in Jerusalem shortly after resurrection (plenty of witnesses to refute the claim)
- They were transformed not by a lie but by the truth

Argument 5: It Really Happened

Conspiracy Theory; Disciples conspired to fool the world

- They could not have removed the body (Matt 27: 66-67)
 - Jewish leaders wanted to stop any deception (they understood Jesus promise to rise again)
 - Tomb sealed (Roman seal) - protected by the full authority of Rome
 - Roman attachment guarded tomb to prevent theft (Guards would die if they failed)
- Over 500 witnesses that could verify resurrection (1 Cor 15: 3-8)
- They had no motive
 - No profit in this lie (death)
 - Would the disciples endure torture, beatings and death for a lie?
 - They were transformed not by a lie but by the truth